

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 HONG K 06045 260803Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----261209Z 051037 /50

R 260733Z MAY 77  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5036  
INFO USLO KEKING  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T HONG KONG 6045

EXDIS

NOFORN  
E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, US  
SUBJ: HONG KONG'S CHIEF NCNA REPORT COMMENTS ON SINO-U.S.  
RELATIONS

REF: HONG KONG 5726

SUMMARY NCNA'S CHIEF HONG KONG REPORTER TOLD CONGENOFF ON  
MAY 25 THAT VICE PREMIER CHI TENG-KUEI'S MAY 16 STATEMENT WAS A  
"REMINDER" TO PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT THE "THREE PRINCIPLES" FOR  
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SINO-U.S. RELATIONS, BUT ADDED THAT THE  
PRC COULD WAIT A LONG TIME FOR AMERICAN INTERNAL POLITICS TO  
ADJUST ITSELF TO THE PRC'S PRINCIPLES. HE THOUGHT SECRETARY  
VANCE'S DESIRE TO VISIT THE PRC IN AUGUST WAS AN INDICATION THAT  
AN AMERICAN DECISION ON THE "CHINA QUESTION" WAS NEARING  
COMPLETION. END SUMMARY

1. DURING A MAY 25 LUNCHEON MEETING, SZETU KEUNG, CHIEF NANA  
REPORTER (HONG KONG) TOLD CONGENOFF THAT CHI TENG-KUEI'S  
MAY 16 STATEMENT TO JAPANESE REPORTERS WAS INTENDED TO  
"REMIND" PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT THE "THREE PRINCIPLES" FOR  
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PAGE 02 HONG K 06045 260803Z

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SINO-U.S. RELATIONS (BREAKING OF TIES

WITH TAIWAN, CANCELING THE TAIWAN DEFENSE TREATY AND WITH-  
DRAWING ALL U.S. TROOPS FROM TAIWAN). SZETU ADDED THAT "SOME  
PEOPLE" IN THE U.S. BELIEVE THE PRC WILL "GIVE IN" ON TAIWAN  
BECAUSE OF THE SOVIET THREAT. "CHINA WILL NEVER COMPROMISE  
ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE". HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRC WAS

"VERY PATIENT" ON THE TAIWAN QUESTION AND COULD WAIT A LONG TIME FOR AMERICAN INTERNAL POLITICS TO ADJUST ITSELF TO THE PRC'S PRINCIPLES.

2. SZETU SAID THAT THEY WERE QUITE PLEASED WITH SECRETARY VANCE'S DESIRE TO GO TO PEKING IN AUGUST INSTEAD OF LATER IN THE YEAR. HE FELT THAT AN AMERICAN DECISION ON THE "CHINA QUESTION" WAS NEARING COMPLETION AND WAS THE REASON FOR THE CHANGE IN PLANS. CITING AN UNIDENTIFIED AMERICAN PRESS REPORT, HE SAID ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE RECENTLY TOLD A GROUP OF ACADEMICS THAT "CONFIDENTIAL" REVIEW OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD EAST ASIA AND CHINA WAS NEARING COMPLETION. SZETU ADDED THAT A MID-MAY CHUNG-KUO SHIH-PAO (TAIPEI'S CHINA TIMES) REPORT FROM THE U.S. ALSO STATED THE POLICY REVIEW WAS NOT FAVORABLE TO TAIWAN.

3. AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION, SZETU REMARKED ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S MAY 12 PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENTS THAT THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE "...SAYS THAT THERE IS JUST ONE CHINA... WE DIDN'T SAY WHICH ONE... AND NEITHER DID ANYONE ELSE". SZETU COMMENTED THAT THIS IS "NOT A JOKING MATTER". HE ADDED THAT HSIN WAN PAO'S (NEW EVENING POST) CRITICISM OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ALLEGED "GO SLOW" AND "PROTECT TAIWAN" POLICY WAS CORRECT (REFTEL). IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SZETU STATED THAT EVEN THOUGH HSINWAN PAO IS NOT AN OFFICIAL PRC NEWSPAPER, IT "SOMETIMES ACCURATELY REFLECTS OUR PERSONAL FEELINGS ON FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS".  
CROSS

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
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